

At a meeting of the HAMPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY PENSION BOARD held at Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Eastleigh on 27 February 2017.

PRESENT:

p	Stewart Adamson	a	Richard North
p	Malcolm Eastwood	p	Cllr Roger Price
p	Steve Foye	p	Alex Rhodes

The meeting was also attended by Jane Staffiere, Head of HR and Cyril Moseley, Vice Chair of at Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service

#### **54 APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies received.

#### **55 DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS**

Members were mindful of their duty to disclose at the meeting any disclosable pecuniary interest they had in any matter on the agenda for the meeting, where that interest was not already entered in the Authority's register of interests, and their ability to disclose any other pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in any such matter that they might have wished to disclose.

#### **56 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING**

The Minutes of the meeting on the 18 August 2016 were received and noted. In relation to Minute 42, it was noted that the fourth bullet point should read "except in exceptional circumstances driven by *operational* need" instead of "business need". With this amendment, the minutes were agreed.

Following the deferring of the acceptance of the 14 April 2016 Minutes, until Members who had been present at that meeting were in attendance, the 14 April Minutes were considered and duly agreed.

#### **57 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman welcomed Jane Staffiere and Cyril Moseley to the meeting.

#### **58 DEPUTATIONS**

There were no deputations.

#### **59 FIRE PENSION BOARD STATUS REPORT**

The Board received a quarterly management report from the Chief Finance Officer (Item 6 in the Minute Book), which addressed matters of interest and concern along with an updated work programme.

It was confirmed that the main focus this quarter had been on administrative improvements. Software update problems with the Software supplier Civica had resulted in a delay to issuing the Annual Benefit Statements which had resulted in a Disclosure Breach being reported to The Pension Regulator. A more robust approach with Civica was being taken going forward to ensure it does not happen again. It was also accepted that “trustees” as stated in paragraph 3.5 of the report was a traditional term and that “scheme manager” was more appropriate. This would be changed in future reports.

Section 5 provided an update on the unauthorised payment cases that had been ongoing since 2010/11. It was expected that this issue would be resolved with HMRC by the end of the financial year. All current firefighters affected by the ‘Protected Pension Age’ change had been notified of the process they should follow to avoid a repeat of this situation in the future. Also it has been agreed that an update on pension rules would be included in pre-retirement courses going forward.

Section 6 provided an update based on the Pension Regulator self-assessment tool and attention was drawn to the Red and Amber issues. The main issue related to recordkeeping and it was agreed that an update would be presented at the next Board meeting. The key point being that data reviews should be conducted annually with improved end-to-end controls over processes.

It was agreed that joint training with Standards and Governance Committee would be helpful, covering tax and contracting out (parts) and roles of advisors and key persons.

An update on the RDS Buy-back scheme was provided at Section 8. In summary the scheme has now closed and individuals had the option to make a lump sum, or monthly direct debit payments Letters had been sent to individuals to enable them to see a tax rebate from HMRC for their additional pension contributions.

A concern over the robustness of the original RDS buy-back programme was discussed, but the Board acknowledged that this was a matter for the LGA and the Home Office and no further action was possible locally.

At the next meeting it was agreed that the following would be on the agenda:

- Employer report
- Annual Admin report
- Scheme Eligibility Update
- An update on the pensionable pay issue for allowances following the Standard & Governance Committee being held on 17 March 2017.

The HFRA Pension Board:

- Noted the content of this report, in particular the intention to develop an appropriate work programme for the Board and to highlight any immediate training needs and how best to meet these.
- Endorsed the paper being presented to the Standards & Governance Committee on 23 March 17 to consider and approved the recommendations for the treatment of TA and ARA.